

**APPROVED 12/29/2008**

Present: Budget Committee Members Mike Nygren, Rich Violette, Pat Martel, Chairman Charles Kimball, Andy Kohlhofer, Doug McElroy; and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson. Member Peg Pinkham arrived at 7:40 pm after the wake in Epping. Don Gates did not make it back to the meeting after the wake.

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm in the main floor meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall.

Carlson presented the revised schedule received yesterday from the SAU office, which changes the original date established for the citizen petition deadline; thus changing the date the Public Hearing can be held. After some discussion, Kohlhofer moved to hold the School District Public Budget Hearing on Monday February 9, 2008 at 7:30 pm. McElroy seconded. The Committee will meet at 7:00 pm to review any petition articles. The vote was unanimously approved 6-0. This date being moved up will hopefully allow the School District to complete all of their materials such to be included in the Annual Report with the Town.

This led to discussion about the citizen petition deadline for the School District and where such petitions could be filed. There is rumor that the School District Clerk has resigned and that the District will not accept a petition. Carlson advised that she had been approached by members of the public on how this process works; and had advised that the School and/or the SAU Office should accept any such citizen petition in lieu of the Clerk; and that if there is no Clerk, the appointing authority should see about designating one to complete the term. It is unknown at this time who would appoint to fill that vacancy.

The Committee then discussed other upcoming meeting dates. They were established for Wednesday December 17, 2008; Monday December 29, 2008; Wednesday January 7, 2009 and the Town Public Budget Hearing is Tuesday January 13, 2009 at 7:00 pm; with the public hearing to begin at 7:30 pm.

The review then turned to the Town budget. Peg Pinkham joined the meeting at this time.

**4414 Animal Control**

Motion was made by Violette to recommend \$11,324. Kohlhofer seconded and there was some discussion about the budget and past history of expenses. There was discussion about the wage rate and the hours of work.

Martel then moved to amend the original motion to recommend \$10,809, removing \$515 from line 4414-301 Patrol Wages based on placement of this position in the new wage schedule, based on 10 hours per week. There are two different numbers provided in the budget and neither works out to the math based on the wage initially used by Chief Janvrin. Kohlhofer seconded this motion and the vote was approved 7-0. Then a vote was taken on the recommendation as amended at \$10,809. This vote was approved 7-0.

**4415 Health**

Motion was made by Kohlhofer to recommend \$1,975. Nygren seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

**4442 Direct Assistance**

Motion was made by Pinkham to recommend \$24,300. Nygren seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

**4445 Vendor Payments**

Motion was made by McElroy to recommend 31,030. Violette seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

**4520 Parks & Recreation**

There was discussion about the summer program and that it being a full day program with decreasing enrollment. This year was the lowest enrollment thus far, although the program has been enhanced in terms of content. There was lengthy discussion about revamping the program back to a half day (such as 9:00 am to 1:00 pm) and only doing one field trip per week. The thought of the Committee was about how to have more kids involved at a more reasonable cost to the children and the taxpayer.

There was discussion about cutting the staffing positions (in terms of dollars) by 40% to include counselors only (not the Director or Assistant Director). This resulted in a savings in wages of \$3,276.

The Committee also discussed not recommending the outdoor movie contained in town events (Line 4520-009) in the amount of \$1,500 due to the low attendance last year and the high cost of this particular item.

The Committee said they wanted to meet again next week with the Parks & Recreation Commission to discuss this with them prior to making their final recommendation. Nygren moved to table this discussion to next week; when the Committee would like Parks & Recreation to come in and discuss it. McElroy seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

**4550 Library**

Kohlhofer discussed not recommending \$5,000 in books, to cut back for one year given the economy. There was also discussion about cutting the new computer \$2,000 from line 4550-060; in keeping with the Committee's effort to not recommend new equipment this year. It was stated that even with both cuts, the budget would still be a \$966 increase over last year. Kohlhofer moved to cut the book line by \$5,000 and the new equipment line by \$2,000; making the total recommended appropriation \$105,442. Martel seconded. The vote approved 7-0.

**4583 Patriotic Purposes**

Motion was made by Violette to recommend \$2,500. Kohlhofer seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

**4610 Conservation Commission**

Motion was made by Kohlhofer to recommend \$3,297. Violette seconded. The vote was approved 7-0.

**4711 Principal - LT Notes & Bonds**

Motion was made by McElroy to recommend \$135,000. Kohlhofer seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

**4721 Interest - LT Bonds & Notes**

Motion was made by McElroy to recommend \$83,140. Pinkham seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

**4723 Interest – Tax Anticipation Notes**

Carlson indicated that the 2008 interest payment has been made on the TAN line of credit for just over \$23,000. There was discussion about interest rates and how much money to allocate in this line item for next year. Violette indicated he would like to see it stay at \$33,000. Motion was made by Kohlhofer and seconded by Nygren to recommend \$40,000. The vote was approved 6-1 with Violette voting in the negative.

**WARRANT ARTICLES****WA Mosquito Control**

There was discussion about whether or not to recommend this item, and discussion about the mosquito population in general. The article will go on the warrant so the voters can decide. Motion was made by Martel to not recommend \$49,550 for mosquito control. McElroy seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

**WA Highway Overlays**

Nygren said that he had been out to these roads proposed for overlay to look at them. He had some questions about Clough Crossing, indicating that it appeared the only section of Clough Crossing that wasn't paved is actually, he felt, on the campground property. Kimball said this is actually the old Route 111A and clarified that it is Town Road; and there was discussion about what is the road versus what is private driveway in this area. This road services the Exeter River Camping Area (now closed); and two single family houses. There was discussion about the rationale behind it being brought forward this year. The Committee recollected that Holmes had indicated it was difficult to plow, thus proposing the overlay.

There was discussion about this being the year to take on a project of this magnitude given the small amount of people on it and the traffic it sees. Nygren said the roadway looks like a private driveway in that it is very narrow.

There was discussion about how roads are seeing much more traffic today than they were likely designed for. This is causing greater wear and tear and likely will cause more maintenance costs as well.

Motion was made by Kohlhofer to recommend \$67,240 for Highway Overlays, which to excludes the amount of \$7,380 for the Clough Crossing paving overlay. The vote was approved 7-0.

**WA Town Clerk Salary Increase**

Carlson was not sure that the Selectmen had made a final recommendation (though it was thought they had). Given this, the Committee deferred making a decision until that is clarified at this week's Selectmen's Meeting. There was discussion about Town Clerk services and what are new services proposed for next year that are not funded (referring to the Article 28-A of the constitution on unfounded mandates). The Committee did not feel they could exclude services we had taken on and funded in prior years. They asked for a listing from the Clerk of any new services mandated by the State this year that were unfunded and did not result in revenue generation for the Town.

**WA Treasurer Salary Increase and Deputy Treasurer Salary Increase (two articles)**

Motion was made by Martel to recommend \$600 for the Treasurer and \$50 for the Deputy Treasurer salary increases. McElroy seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

**WA Revaluation/Recertification**

Pinkham moved to recommend \$70,000. Kohlhofer seconded and the vote was approved 7-0. This item is fully funded from the capital reserve fund and is a zero tax impact.

**WA Police Detective Vehicle**

Kohlhofer moved to not recommend \$18,197 for the unmarked vehicle. Violette seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

**WA Police Cruiser**

A question arose as to whether the Department had looked into the 6 cylinder Impala vehicle as a cruiser. This will be forwarded back to the Chief. The Committee thought there could be some savings in going

to a more economical car. They also did not want to buy two cars this year given the economy. The Committee discussed recommending less money and purchasing a more efficient vehicle. They did not want to do this without having a price estimate from Chief Janvrin. Discussion continued on the vehicles and potential added maintenance costs if the new car purchase is deferred one year. Motion was made by Kohlhofer to recommend \$25,069 for the new (replacement) Police Cruiser. Nygren seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

### **WA Highway Roller and Trailer**

Kimball stated that he did not feel that this roller would be sufficient for roadway work; that it needed to be at least a five ton roller. There was discussion about what this unit would be used for and the allocating of paving money. There was discussion about the rental of such a unit when it was needed. Discussion about the Road Agent renting it in 2009, tracking the use and coming back next year if he finds that he needs it more often (to make renting not an economical choice); and to get a heavier duty roller that would suit the Town's needs.

Kohlhofer moved to not recommend \$15,000 for the roller. Martel seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

### **CRF Police Cruiser**

There was further discussion about the fact the Committee has not recommended the unmarked car, which would leave the \$11,000 put in last year as residual in the Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. In light of this, the Committee discussed funding only \$1,500 to get to the total of \$12,500 which has been traditionally funded as an annual appropriation. Kohlhofer moved to recommend \$1,500 as an addition to the Capital Reserve Fund for the Police Cruiser in 2009. Violette seconded. The vote was approved 4-3 with Pinkham, McElroy, and Kimball voting in the negative.

### **CRF Highway Building**

The Committee reviewed past discussions and again indicated they felt some study was needed for the long-term needs of the Highway Department, both for a building and equipment. Without a study (or at least more research) being been done, they felt we don't know what we need and when we will need it. The Committee thought a study should be done to start looking at these things.

There was discussion about in a few years having a "package" bond to build the building and purchase the necessary truck(s) and equipment at such time as the Town was ready.

It was suggested that this might be a good year to skip it and make a plan about when and how we are going to do it.

Motion was made by Violette to recommend \$0 for the Highway Building CRF. McElroy seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Pinkham voting in the negative.

### **CRF Town Hall Renovations**

McElroy moved to recommend \$25,000. Violette seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

### **CRF Revaluation**

McElroy moved to recommend \$25,000. Pinkham seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

### **CRF Historic Museum Expansion/Renovation**

There was discussion about what could be done at the existing site at 8 Beede Hill Road. Pinkham moved to recommend \$10,000 for the fund. Kohlhofer said that he thought an addition to the Library for this

purpose was the best idea. McElroy seconded the original motion and the vote was approved 6-1 with Kohlhofer voting in the negative.

**CRF Fire Truck**

Pinkham moved to recommend \$25,000. Nygren seconded and the vote was approved 7-0. Kimball stated that the next truck to be replaced would be the old tractor trailer tanker, which is a 1979. There was discussion about the cost to replace a fire truck and that the past annual appropriation of \$12,500 would not be sufficient to do that when the time came.

**CRF Highway Equipment**

Hold on with regard to further Motion was made by Violette to recommend \$0. McElroy seconded. The vote was approved 6-1.

**CRF Radio Communications Equipment**

There was discussion about this line item and what it was to be used for. Pinkham recommended \$5,000. Violette seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

**TTF Cable Access**

Motion by McElroy to recommend \$15,000. Pinkham seconded and the vote was approved 7-0. This is no tax impact as the funds would come from franchise fees. Carlson explained that the cable contract renewal was near completion and once that was done that there would be a cable access management committee to begin working on cable access and the necessary equipment for broadcasting, etc. That is what these town trust fund monies will be used for.

Carlson presented a spreadsheet to Committee members, prepared by Thom Roy, with the full detail proposals received for renovation of the basement of the Town Hall. The prices range from \$172,640 to \$278,827; with the three middle bids all at about \$230,000. Carlson indicated the Selectmen were still planning to put this on the warrant, but had not met again to decide on a number. The Committee will review this on the final draft of the warrant.

The final discussion about the Red Cross warrant article in the amount of \$425 will also take place next week.

Members wanted to finish the Town budget next week prior to beginning their work on the School.

Due to the lateness of the hour, review of minutes for 12/03/08 was deferred. The Committee has not received minutes of Saturday's meeting yet.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kohlhofer at 10:00 pm. Nygren seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 7-0.

The Committee will meet next on Wednesday evening December 17, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson  
Town Administrator